

June 12, 2018  
(May Letter)

Dear Samantha,

I see from your blog that you are going through some pre-trip surprises about forms, insurance, and other formal requirements for your upcoming adventure. I hope that these get resolved easily and successfully. I also see that I had better send this letter off to you right away or it will be sitting in Vancouver while you are off to the USA.

Fran and I are currently in Toronto. She is at a conference of the Law and Society Association so is busy with presentations, round-tables, and conversations with people interested in sex work research from around the world. It's especially exciting since her colleagues organized a special session in recognition of her work over the last 50 years. Here is the program entry for the session.

.....

**Celebrating Frances Shaver's research on the Recognition of Sex Work**

**CRN: 6**

Thursday Session 5, 4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m; Paper Session

**Room:** Cedar

**Chair/Discussant(s):** *Chris Bruckert*, University of Ottawa

**Description:**

This session will bring together researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to celebrate Frances Shaver's sex work research. Inspired by Frances, sex work research has become more systematic and critical, legal responses have become more focused on rights, health, and safety, and sex workers and their allies have become more organised. This session will identify the issues currently facing sex work research, policy, and practice as a result of these changes and in light of Frances' contributions to the field. We invite speakers from research, policy, and practice domains to provide short (20 minutes) presentations regarding the major changes in their respective areas. These will be followed by a discussion of the implications for current conditions, a roundtable discussion, and reports

**Primary Keyword:** Sex Work

**Presentations:**

Perceptions of Sex Work: Exploring the Narratives of Service Providers, **John Bryans and Isabelle Bhola**, Concordia University

Reflections on the Critical Issues and New Directions in Sex Work Research from 2006-2017, **Cecilia Benoit and Mikael Jansson**, University of Victoria

Sex Work: From the Street to the Supreme Court, **Francine Tremblay**, Concordia University

The Leading role of Frances Shaver's work for Canadian Research on Sexual Labour, **Deborah Brock**, York University

.....

It was a nice session. There were about 30 people who attended, the presentations were informative regarding the ongoing work that was taking place – with some lovely comments about Fran's role in their work and lives. Fran was asked to say a few words at the end.

It might not surprise you that she emphasized how important it was that children and young people be provided with good sex-related education – not just about the physiology of sexuality, but about the emotional and inter-personal relationship aspects of it as well.

This is an especially important message here in Ontario since the newly elected government leader had promised to cancel the new program of sexual education recently adopted in the schools here. Too bad

that so much of the political discussion is taking us back to the “bad old days” where sexuality was not adequately dealt with in the schools. Is it done well in BC?

After the session a large group went out to celebrate Fran at a dinner event. I expect she was very pleased with the recognition for her career that the events reflected.

The meetings and presentations continued on Friday, Saturday, and even this morning on Sunday. We are taking the train later this morning so Fran is off at a final session and will be back to make the trip to the train station about 10:30. I expect I will finish this letter on the train to Montréal. I am now going to take a break to see if I can buy some cheese for our train picnic lunch.

.....

We’re back home now. As usual, I greatly enjoyed the train trip. I love being able to check my e-mail, maybe do a little work, have a snack, and even a nap or two as the Ontario and Québec countryside flies by. Fran and I were even able to write a few Fathers Day cards along the way.

Love,

Here are a couple of photos from the session organized in celebration of Fran and her career.

